

**Statement by Special Representative of the Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström**

**MILESTONE IN FIGHT AGAINST
IMPUNITY FOR GUINEA MASS RAPE**

(New York, 10 February 2012)

I welcome the news that a Guinean court has filed charges against Lieutenant Colonel Moussa Tiegboro Camara for the atrocities including mass rapes that took place in Conakry on 28 September 2009. Lieutenant Colonel Camara, Director of the National Agency for the Fight against Drug Trafficking, Crime, and Terrorism, is the highest-ranking official yet to be charged for his role in the massacre. Justice in Guinea has been delayed, but this signals that it cannot be denied.

Last November, I visited Guinea to meet with rape survivors, representatives of victims associations, and Government officials. A Joint Communiqué was agreed between the Government of Guinea and the United Nations, clearly stating the Government's commitment to fight impunity and ultimately prevent and deter sexual violence. The recent charges are a welcome step in the right direction. They signal that no official is above the law, and no citizen is below it.

Following the massacre, the International Commission of Inquiry confirmed that in addition to the killing of at least 150 unarmed protesters, 109 women were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual abuse. Despite the Commission's finding that these widespread and systematic attacks likely constitute crimes against humanity, the quest for justice has been painfully slow. Two years on, very few perpetrators have been charged for their crimes. Guinea's new democratic government has committed to prosecute all those suspected of abuse in accordance with international standards and to ensure the safety of victims, witnesses and judicial staff.

The legacy of the massacre and mass rape is far from over. There remains an urgent need to assist the survivors and bring the remaining perpetrators to justice. It is equally crucial that all victims, other witnesses and their families are afforded full protection and that no effort is spared to ensure their safety throughout this process.

We stand ready to support the Government's efforts to address impunity for sexual violence and to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated.

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